

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12  
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 TRSE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00  
NSCE-00 EB-08 OMB-01 H-01 /071 W  
-----112568 161638Z /50

O R 161300Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1950  
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USMISSION USNATO  
USNMR SHAPE  
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR  
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES  
CINCEUR  
AMCONSUL ADANA  
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL  
SECDEF WASHDC  
AMCONSUL IZMIR  
USICA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ANKARA 3737

USICA FOR PGM/RC, PGM/PPE, EU, VOA/PN

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: NATO, MARR, TU  
SUBJECT: TURKISH DEFENSE POLICY: ECEVIT STATEMENTS AND PRESS COMMENT

REF: A) ANKARA 3686, (DTG 121344Z MAY 78) (NOTAL),  
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- B. ANKARA 3680, (DTG 121320Z MAY 78) (NOTAL),
- C. ANKARA 3441 (DTG 050515Z MAY 78) (NOTAL)

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED:

1. SUMMARY: IN STATEMENTS MADE IN LONDON MAY 15 AS REPORTED  
IN THE PRESS HERE, PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT DEFINED GOT DEFENSE  
POLICY AND POSSIBLE OPTIONS IF THE U.S. ARMS EMBARGO IS NOT

REPEALED. LOCAL PRESS MAY 16 ALSO REPORTS COMMENTS BY DEFENSE MINISTER ISIK ON TURKISH RELATIONS WITH NATO AND ON DETENTE. PRESS ALSO COMMENTS ON TURKISH APPROACH TO NATO'S LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM (LTDP). SUM OF THIS REPORTAGE INDICATES DIRECTIONS IN WHICH ECEVIT AND GOT MAY MOVE IF U.S.-TURKISH AND NATO-TURKISH DEFENSE RELATIONSHIPS ARE NOT REHABILITATED. END SUMMARY

2. MODERATE AND PRO-GOVERNMENT DAILY "MILLIYE" MAY 16 REPORTED FOLLOWING COMMENTS BY PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT ON TURKEY'S DEFENSE RELATIONSHIPS AT LONDON PRESS CONFERENCE ON MAY 15:

--TURKEY WILL IMPLEMENT ITS "NEW DEFENSE CONCEPT" BECAUSE CURRENT DEFENSE CONCEPTS ARE "OUTMODED... AND LEFT OVER FROM THE DAYS OF THE COLD WAR PERIOD."

--TURKEY FACES "NEW SOURCES OF DANGER OUTSIDE OF THE WARSAW PACT".

--TURKEY IS FACED WITH "URGENT PROBLEMS" THAT HAVE BEEN "LEFT IN SUSPENSE FOR SOME TIME" BECAUSE OF THE ARMS EMBARGO, AND HOPES FOR LIFTING THE EMBARGO "ARE WEAKENING AS THE SUMMER RECESS OF THE AMERICAN CONGRESS APPROACHES".

--"PERSONALLY, I HAVE PREPARED MYSELF, MENTALLY AND PSYCHOLOGICALLY FOR THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE EMBARGO WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT".

--THE ARMS EMBARGO IS AN "OBSTRUCTION" TO SOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM AND IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS WITH GREECE. CONFIDENTIAL

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--TURKEY IS "NO LONGER FACED WITH AN URGENT AND DIRECT THREAT FROM THE SOVIET UNION", BUT RATHER WITH "GENUINE THREATS FROM OTHER QUARTERS".

--"WE ARE ALSO FACED WITH THE NECESSITY OF NOT PERMITTING OUR DEFENSE TO BE A BURDEN ON OUR ECONOMY". THE BURDEN OF THE "COMMON DEFENSE SYSTEM" (READ NATO) HAS BEEN BORNE "AT THE PRICE OF NEGLECTING OUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE." THE "NEW DEFENSE CONCEPT", STILL IN THE PROCESS OF ELABORATION, "WILL BE AN INCENTIVE FOR THE ECONOMY AND NOT A BURDEN."

--TURKEY'S "FULL MEMBERSHIP IN NATO WILL CONTINUE" BUT TURKEY'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE ALLIANCE "WILL BE ESTABLISHED ACCORDING TO THE CONTRIBUTION WHICH WILL OR WILL NOT BE MADE BY OUR ALLIES."

--TURKISH TENSION WITH THE USSR HAS BEEN REDUCED AND "THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION HAS ALSO HELPED TO A GREAT EXTENT IN REDUCING THIS TENSION." AT THE SAME TIME, TURKEY'S ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH THE USSR HAS INCREASED, BUT IT HAS "STILL REMAINED CONSIDERABLY BEHIND THE COOPERATION OF OUR WESTERN FRIENDS WITH THE SOVIET UNION." (IN THIS RESPECT, CONSERVATIVE DAILY "TERCUMAN" REPORTED ECEVIT AS SAYING THAT HE SOVIETS OFFERED ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

DENIED BY THE WEST.)

--TURKISH-BRITISH COOPERATION IN DEVELOPMENT OF THE  
ARMS INDUSTRY IN TURKEY IS POSSIBLE.

--CENTO SHOULD BE REVISED "TO CONFORM TO PRESENT  
NEEDS". (NO ELABORATION OF THIS POINT WAS REPORTED IN THE  
LOCAL PRESS.)

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AMCONSUL IZMIR  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ANKARA 3737

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3. PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE MAY 15 FOR THE NATO DEFENSE  
PLANNING COMMITTEE (DPC) MEETING, DEFENSE MINISTER HASAN  
ESAT ISIK REPORTEDLY MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

--THE U.S. ARMS EMBARGO IS ALSO A PROBLEM FOR NATO AND

THE EMBARGO HAS "IMPAIRED THE MUTUAL CONFIDENCE AMONG (NATO)  
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MEMBERS."

--"IN AN ATMOSPHERE WHERE CONFIDENCE HAS DISAPPEARED, THE  
VALUE OF ARMS DIMINISHES GREATLY.... IT IS MUCH MORE DIFFICULT  
TO RESTORE LOST CONFIDENCE THAN TO PROCURE ARMS."

--WORLD DETENTE, WHILE A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT, IS STILL  
BASED ON A BALANCE OF FORCES. DUE ACCOUNT STILL NEEDS TO BE  
PAID TO THE MAINTENANCE OF MILITARY FORCES, INCLUDING ARMS  
PRODUCTION.

4. IN AN EXCLUSIVE STORY, "MILLIYET" MAY 16 REPORTED FROM  
LONDON THAT PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT SAID IN ANSWER TO A  
"MESSAGE" FROM PRESIDENT CARTER THAT TURKEY WOULD NOT APPROVE  
THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE FROM THE WASHINGTON NATO SUMMIT AND  
WOULD NOT ENDORSE THE LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM (LTDP).  
ACCORDING TO "MILLIYET", PRESIDENT CARTER'S "MESSAGE" WAS  
DELIVERED TO ECEVIT IN BONN AND THE "UNFAVORABLE REACTION"  
WAS CONVEYED TO WASHINGTON ON MAY 14. THE "MILLIYET" ARTICLE  
CONTINUED THAT THE "CARTER DRAFT" LTDP "IGNORES THE EMBARGO"  
AND THE RIFT THAT HAS BEEN CREATED IN NATO'S SOUTHEASTERN  
FLANK. ON THE LTDP, ECEVIT REPORTEDLY TOLD THE USG THAT,  
UNLESS "NECESSARY CHANGES ARE MADE" HE WOULD NOT AGREE TO  
THE NATO COMMUNIQUE AND, IN ANY EVENT, UNANIMITY ON "NATO  
DECLARATIONS" IS NOT NEEDED. ARTICLE CONCLUDED THAT ECEVIT'S  
RESPONSE HAS "WORRIED NATO AND WASHINGTON" AND SECRETARY  
VANCE HAS TALKED TO SYG LUNS AND PRIME MINISTERS SCHMIDT AND  
CALLAGHAN ON THIS MATTER.

5. IN A REPORT FROM BRUSSELS CARRIED IN "MILLIYET" MAY 15,  
CORRESPONDENT MEHMET ALI BIRAND SAID THAT TURKISH IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE LTDP WOULD COST \$5.0 BILLION IN 1979-93. BIRAND ALSO  
SAID THAT THE LTDP CALLS FOR TURKEY TO PUT ITS NAVY UNDER NATO  
COMMAND, INCREASE THE NUMBER OF TROOPS COMMITTED TO NATO  
DEFENSE, AND INVEST IN "RATHER EXPENSIVE" DEVICES SUCH AS  
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ELECTRONIC COUNTER-MEASURES. BIRAND ADDED THAT, DURING  
FORMULATION OF THE LTDP, TURKEY OPPOSED "ABOUT 20" OF THE  
PROPOSALS, AND THE GOT MAINTAINED THAT ONLY LTDP MEASURES  
FALLING WITHIN "NATIONAL DEFENSE PLANS" COULD BE IMPLEMENTED  
FOR FINANCIAL REASONS. END UNCLASSIFIED.

6. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: COMMENT: RECENT STATEMENTS BY PRIME  
MINISTER ECEVIT AND DEFENSE MINISTER ISIK (REFS A, C AND

RELATED REPORTS) FAIRLY WELL SKETCH OUT THE POSITION THAT THE GOT MAY ADOPT IN FORTHCOMING NATO MEETINGS. THE PRINCIPAL THEMES, AS RECITED ABOVE, INCLUDE THE ABSOLUTE NECESSITY OF REPEALING THE EMBARGO AS A FIRST STEP IN MAINTAINING FULL TURKISH ADHERENCE TO NATO, THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE NATO ALLIES RECOMPENSE TURKEY FOR THE "BURDEN" OF ALLIANCE DEFENSE (PROBABLY INVOKING ARTICLE II OF THE NATO TREATY IN THIS RESPECT), AND LAYING OUT TURKISH MILITARY HARDWARE AND ECONOMIC NEEDS, INCLUDING NATO ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING AN INDIGENOUS ARMS INDUSTRY. IN THIS CONTEXT, IT IS PROBABLE THAT THE GOT WILL AT LEAST ATTACH A STRONG RESERVATION ON ADOPTION OF THE LTDP AT THE WASHINGTON SUMMIT (REF B); AT THIS JUNCTURE, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO PREDICT WHETHER ECEVIT WILL DISASSOCIATE TURKEY FROM THE SUMMIT COMMUNIQUE OR PUBLICLY BUCK THE ALLIED CONSENSUS. LOOKING AHEAD TO HIS SCHEDULED MID-JUNE TRIP TO MOSCOW, ECEVIT IS NOT LIKELY TO DEFINE FURTHER HIS "NEW DEFENSE CONCEPT" OR THE TURKISH VERSION OF DETENTE (INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY OF ARMS PROCUREMENT FROM THE SOVIETS) UNTIL HE HAS A CHANCE TO ASSESS THE ALLIED RESPONSE TO HIS CHALLENGES AND UNTIL CONGRESS DEFINITELY ACTS ON REPEAL OF THE ARMS EMBARGO. END CONFIDENTIAL  
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## Message Attributes

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